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realize an indemnity out of private rebel property for the expenditures of the war is either practicable or expedient; nor do I propose to offer suggestions upon that point. But, as a punishment for crimes, either independent of or in addition to personal penalties and disabilities, I do propose

confiscate or take from rebels their property in such instances, and under such regulations as further discussion and more mature reflection may suggest. Unless this method is resorted to, many of the most flagrant, perhaps all the gigantic criminals, may escape punishment. For who doubts

... them becomes utterly hopeless, so
shape its closing scenes as to withdraw their
own beloved persons from our all-embracing
arms, and go to wander accursed over the
earth, whose shuddering surface will recall

Am I to be told that under the Constitution the power does not exist to seize and confiscate the property of those huge and

lead the cause of treason by suggesting learned, artificial quibbling and unworthy doubts of this power that have a foundation nowhere save in a willingness to aid the guilty? Clearly we have that power, and certainly will it be rigorously exercised on at least this class of criminals.

the law was the study of my youth, and its practice has absorbed all the years of my manhood, yet, thank Heaven, I am not lawyer enough to find the only measure and estimate of a nation's opportunities and needs in the artificial rules of a *nisi prius* court, devised in the withered brain of some old judge in a backwoods town.

round obstacles they had not the courage to remove—rules happily hid away for centuries in the dust of the dead generations. I will never be found estimating and weighing the everlasting equities by the narrow precedents of a five-pound court. Our way shall never be walled up with the disinterred

Learned and ghostly lawyers, who glide from their musty leaves like dried geraniums from mislaid and forgotten song books, and whose shriveled lips shock us with the rude jargon of past ages, may gather up this brain debris of judicial cemeteries, and hie them back to the nooks of forgetfulness, for these issues

source. Some reason must be given for deciding our tremendous case amiss, other than that courts have always adjudged the potty cause of their litigious suitors amiss also; and yet these old books, rightly read, are

To those who say that we cannot pass a confiscation bill, I will only say that they will see that we can. In its scope and terms, any act that is not to be the merest of shams, must in its provisions embrace all traitors. I know we are told by absurdly wise men, that such a law must be curiously and in-

Sir, to me a traitor is a traitor; they all belong to one bad class, and as such all must be obnoxious to all punishment. I have already indicated what the punishment should be.

how; but it must be left to the prosecuting officers, to the courts, and the Executive who of the whole mass shall be punished, as well as the degree of its severity. An effort to discriminate by law will defeat the just object of all law. I would set free the slaves of every man and woman engaged in

least should inure to the benefit of the slave and from this huge crime should spring greater beneficence. I have twice occupied this floor and the press on this general subject, and I do not now propose even to epitomize the arguments for this proposition. I may, however, be permitted

The citizens of slave States implore and beseech us not to "Africanize"—as they call it—their sections, by the emancipation of the slaves of the rebels. I do not think

I quite understand the force of this expression, if by it they mean the odious and unendurable presence of the descendants of Africans. Who carried and planted these Africans in their midst, and propagated and increased them there? Not we. They would have been there

outraged Heaven and insulted the earl to get them; and it is because they have them that this war came. Where should the especial consequences fall if not on them? They exclaim against this scheme as if emancipation would increase, qua

I know these gentlemen occasionally startle themselves with the horrant pictures of a negro insurrection. Out what grows this awful fear of insurrection, rape and blood? It is the slave th

resurrection, and solely and purely because he is a slave; and it is to get rid of his chains and their attendant curses that he becomes a conspirator, and in secret whets his knife and appetite for blood. Strike down slavery, and you annihilate the po-

of the sole creating cause. There have been innumerable slave insurrections under the stars and stripes—an insurrection of free negroes never, and there never will be; and least of all in the presence of five hundred thousand soldiers.

South that the emancipation of the slave will, as the phrase is, "Africanize" the North also. If so, this would relieve the South of a measure, I know the strength and depth and blindness of the unseeing, unhearing, unknowing and unreasoning brute prejudice against this race, and that I can neither

atures and constitution-makers in the States are now busy adding dark burdens to their already blackened institutions, just as if by legislation they could fight against these negroes. If these blind workers would but open their eyes to the width and depth of the evil, they would at least be careful observers, they would at least

Sir, the census of 1840, 1850 and 1860 show these amazing facts: that from more Northern of the free States, where, under the laws, negroes are rejected to the fewest disabilities, and enjoy most of qualified citizenship, that re-

pt Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Miss